

The Catholic Library World

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF
THE CATHOLIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

GERTRUDE KISTLER
MEMORIAL LIBRARY
ROSEMONT, PA.

VOLUME 3

OCTOBER 15, 1931

No. 2

CUMULATED VOLUME OF 1931 C. P. I. TO APPEAR JANUARY, 1932

By DR. FRANCIS E. FITZGERALD
Editor, *Catholic Periodical Index*

The next volume of *The Catholic Periodical Index* will be issued as a single issue similar in size and make-up to the present 1930 Annual. The great expense of publishing quarterly numbers has not been warranted by the returns and it is due to their publication that a deficit has resulted. The editor is planning on issuing this 1931 Annual early in January, 1932, and the editorial work is going ahead quite satisfactorily. The cooperating indexers are sending in material regularly for the same list as in the 1930 Annual. Subscriptions for the 1931 Annual are set at fifteen dollars a copy, with an expected sale of five hundred copies. The 1931 Annual is estimated at two hundred and fifty pages of text somewhat larger than 1930 due to the inclusion of a few more titles possible through the reduction in publishing costs through the change of policy from the quarterly to the annual basis.

To the membership of the rapidly growing Catholic Library Association the message to take seriously to heart is: "*The Catholic Periodical Index* is in hard straits, but subscriptions will bring it through all right." Those who have not secured a copy of the 1930 Annual are urged to order one at once. It is probable that the price will have to be raised on the remaining copies. The present price is \$4.50 per copy, but will not be guaranteed. It is well worth three or four times that much to any library having as many as five of the magazines indexed. By binding the files of magazines indexed in the 1930 Annual of *The Catholic Periodical Index*, complete access by subject and by title may be had to this magnificent collection of fifty Catholic magazines. Your card catalog will never discover this information. It is only through the inexpensive medium of the *Index* that this material can be made immediately available for reference use.

With the advent of the new organization, The Catholic Library Association, the *Index* can benefit from the singleness of purpose of the membership which is growing rapidly under the leadership of Rev. William M. Stinson, S.J. It is the expressed purpose of the new editor of *The Catholic Library World* to make every effort to promote the *Index*. This is the cooperation the *Index* has needed and which it has enjoyed since its inception. With self-sacrificing efforts, the cooperating indexers have supported the editors without complaint. The expectation of the editor-in-chief is that beginning with volume three, the editorship can be made a paid appointment for a full-time worker in the employ of The Catholic Library Association, so that in future the *Index* will have the benefit of the entire attention of the editor. For the present, the pioneering offers itself as the best vehicle to carry through the second year. There is a tremendous amount of detail attached to doing a complete job, and the editor realizes more than any one else could how much this complete attention is lacking. Most beginning publishing ventures are accompanied with the same hazards and the only solution possible to avoid these complications is the setting up in advance of a large sum to insure an easy inception. This was tried for several years without concrete results and brought about the present action. We have *The Catholic Periodical Index* now at least, and I do not think any one of the librarians using it would give it up.

The editorial office is preparing an announcement regarding the next volume of *The Catholic Periodical Index* which will be distributed as widely as possible. Inquiries should be addressed to the editor, Dr. Francis E. Fitzgerald, 148-42 Eighty-Ninth Avenue, Jamaica, New York City. All mail sent to him there will be received and correspondence issued from there. The subscriptions and enclosures forwarded to the Scranton, Pennsylvania, address will be likewise referred to the new address.

The 1930 Annual Cumulation OF THE Catholic Periodical Index

is on sale at the special price of \$4.50 a copy. Orders should be mailed to the Editor at once.
The supply is limited and the present price is subject to change without notice.

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215 pages of indexing
A needed reference tool

Address orders to
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The Catholic Periodical Index
148-42 89th Avenue, Jamaica, New York City
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The Catholic Library World

Issued on the 15th of each month, except July and August.

John M. O'Loughlin

Editor

Address all communications to the editor, Boston College Library,
Chestnut Hill, Mass.

Application for transfer of second-class matter from Scranton, Pa., to
Boston, Mass., is pending.

CATHOLIC BOOKS IN PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Catholic readers frequently bemoan the fact that it is practically impossible to get Catholic books in public libraries. The complaint is often accompanied by an uncharitable implication that public librarians are unconcerned about the extent of Catholic reading matter in the libraries under their charge. It is, unfortunately, too true that in many instances public libraries have not on hand all the Catholic books which would appeal to those of their clientele interested in Catholic literature. Why is this so? Let us look to the cause. In most cases, the blame can be fairly placed on the shoulders of Catholic readers themselves. They shy at approaching those in authority at public libraries with a request for the purchase of some particular Catholic book. Such timidity is difficult to understand. Yet it is a patent fact. Are Catholics so ashamed of their religion that they refrain from demanding their rights as citizens and tax-payers? It is no easy task to place one's finger on the reason why Catholics themselves create a situation for which they are largely responsible, and about which they continually grumble.

Public librarians, as a rule, try to apportion their book purchases to suit the general needs of the community they serve. It would, indeed, be unreasonable to expect public libraries to have on their shelves every new Catholic book. Experience alone will teach Catholic readers that if there is a sufficient demand from citizens (say, half-a-dozen requests), the librarian will be only too glad to recommend the acquisition of the book or books in question. In very few instances will requests of this nature meet with an intolerant refusal. A high official in one of the large libraries of the United States recently remarked to a Catholic librarian how reticent Catholics are to inquire about Catholic books. This, alas, is a shameful indictment of Catholic apathy. Until Catholic readers are disabused of this attitude, Catholic reading will continue to linger in the doldrums of desuetude. Catholics should do more reading. "No entertainment is so cheap as reading, nor any pleasure so lasting." Catholic books, journals and magazines literally abound in material from which every Catholic can derive such entertainment and lasting pleasure. Catholic readers should see to it that their public libraries acquire at least a fair representation of new Catholic books. Generally speaking, public librarians are not at fault. Catholic readers themselves are remotely responsible for a condition of which they are the bitterest critics.

COOPERATION PLUS

It is very gratifying for the editor to receive unsolicited pledges of cooperation from members of the C. L. A. There is sweeter solace still in experiencing the readiness with which these promises are redeemed when the call is made. It is entirely upon such splendid team-work that the development of the *WORLD* depends. To our contributors, we extend our profound thanks. In particular, we wish to express our sincere appreciation to Sister Agatha, a member of the Executive Committee, who compiled a list of Catholic librarians in the U. S., and offered the same to us for use as a mailing list. Sister Agatha's task must have been a tedious one, and must have consumed a considerable amount of her valuable time. Her compilation helped us greatly. This, indeed, is cooperation plus.

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INSPIRING CHILDREN TO BE ADVENTURERS IN READING

More than anything else, perhaps, the child carries with it through the later stages of educational development an interest in reading. Hence it is, that in the formative years wise guidance in reading is an essential which will exert a beneficial influence when the age of adolescence is reached. Home training is a forceful, contributing factor. Necessarily, in some instances, this influence must be supplied by the teacher. If a child is judiciously guided in the choice of wholesome reading, there is every assurance that the seed of interest, planted during the impressionable age, will bear fruit one hundred fold. Stimulated interest in recreational reading will later develop into a natural proclivity toward worthwhile books. Is this not something to be desired? Or, rather, is it not a condition which is woefully lacking among the Catholic youth of today? The seed should be planted in the elementary grades when the soil is fertile and highly responsive. Teachers should encourage their pupils to be adventurers in reading, then guide them in the selection of invigorating and alluring books. Children's books are refreshing. They develop creative imagination. They are vitalizing currents from which the child, later on, can draw its stimulus of appreciation for engaging books.

Fairy tales, well told, with their simplicity, their beauteous tone, their nobility of sentiment, their kindness, gratitude and fidelity, portraying as they do the noble and the beautiful in nature, create a spontaneous appeal in the imaginative minds of children. To teachers of the second to the fifth grades, we heartily recommend *The Golden Spears* and *The Fairy Minstrel of Glenmalure*, written by the late Edmund Leamy, M.P. The author wrote these fairy tales for his own three children, tales which were to delight in time countless children he would never know. Mr. Leamy effectively touches the hearts of children with vivid presentation of natural scenes, described in language full of color, yet simple and childlike. *The Golden Spears* and *The Fairy Minstrel of Glenmalure* are used as supplemen-

tary readers in many schools in the East. Would that these delightful books were in universal use in all Catholic elementary grades, for then Catholic teachers would enjoy the consolation of having inspired their pupils with these charming tales of Irish folk-lore. Mr. Leamy's books are now being handled by Baker & Taylor, 55 Fifth Avenue, New York City.

THE PROCESS OF SELECTING THE CATHOLIC BOOK OF THE MONTH

By FRANCIS TALBOT, S.J.

Editorial Secretary, Catholic Book Club

Many steps must be taken in the selection of the Catholic book of the month, to the exclusion of other good books of the month. The first of these, that makes all the others possible, was taken more than three years ago. At that time the publishers were agreeable but perplexed. When asked for a Catholic book, they presented a deep, dogmatic book, a sentimentally pious book, or a juvenile. They were carefully educated into a larger definition.

Since then, they have continued agreeable. More than that, they have been consistently courteous, interested and generous. Without the cooperation of the publishers, secular as well as Catholic, the Catholic Book Club could not exist. To these, our appreciation and thanks.

About February and August, the Editorial Secretary writes to all the publishers, calling attention to the type of book sought, asking for advanced copies of the publishing lists, and for any special notations they may care to make. Always, and almost universally, the publishers respond as soon as possible.

With this data available, the Secretary examines the lists of titles and authors, and the probable dates of publication. He and his office associates consider the relative importance and the suitability of the books listed. A selection is made and requests are sent for these books.

They come, some in manuscript, some in long galley-sheets, some in page proofs. They are all read by the Secretary and the two or three on the preliminary committee. If the book is deemed to be of greater importance, the Secretary requests additional copies from the publishers. If not thought available, the publisher is informed of that fact.

With alacrity, usually, the publisher supplies as many additional galley or page proofs as he can. These are then sent to the seven members of the editorial board. Also, there is sent to the editors a list of all the books already considered or promised. The editors may call for further consideration of any one of these books, even though the sifting committee has negated it.

At certain seasons of the year, the editors are, I fear, a bit overwhelmed by the number of galley proofs sent to them. Being busy men, otherwise, they act like busy men and send in their decisions most promptly. They are marvelously prompt. Sometimes they all

vote unanimously against the book; rarely, they all favor the book; normally, the vote is divided. A majority vote means that the book can be selected. At times, there are too many such. If these can, through arrangements with the publishers, be distributed through successive months, well and good. If not, the editors must decide on one book against the other.

At this point, enters the business manager. The editors have spoken; the Secretary has arranged the book for the specific month. The Business Manager and the Treasurer gasp: "This is a \$5.00 book!" Or it may be \$4.00 or \$3.00. And the members pay an average of only \$2.10. They calculate discounts, consult bank-balances, and find a way to lose less money than anticipated on the book selected. The Editorial Department always wins; but the Business Department manages to survive, after worrying, however.

A variety of other incidentals enter into the choice: the timeliness of a book, the balancing of a schedule of lighter and heavier subjects, the current importance of an author, and the like. But the book selected each month must be of Catholic interest, must be skilled and above the average, must have some phase of larger importance, must be a book that we have faith in. Only twice in thirty-six months did we fail to provide the proper book weeks and months in advance. On both occasions, however, almost miraculously, even at the moment when we were ready to announce no book for the month, we found a book that was an exceptional book.

With this too-contracted brief finished, I turn appalled to a pile of galley-proofs. This Autumn season is rich in important Catholic books; hence, the Editorial Department of the Catholic Book Club is poor in leisure moments.

ARCHBISHOP'S RESIDENCE

Locust and Eleventh Streets
Dubuque, Iowa

September 10, 1931

John M. O'Loughlin, Editor
The Catholic Library World
Chestnut Hill, Mass.

Dear Sir:

I have your letter telling of the work of the newly-formed Catholic Library Association.

The truly remarkable work accomplished by your association since its formation indicates a most progressive spirit, and I am glad to avail myself of the opportunity of commending it. The publication of the Catholic Periodical Index is of especial interest and value.

Congratulating you on the rapid strides you have made in your chosen field of endeavor, I am,

Yours sincerely,

✠ FRANCIS J. BECKMAN,
Archbishop of Dubuque.

CATHOLIC AUTHOR BIBLIOGRAPHY

Below follows a digest of the report of the committee on Catholic Author Bibliography, as submitted to the Philadelphia convention by the Chairman, William T. O'Rourke, Assistant Librarian, Holy Cross College, Worcester, Mass.

Among the important developments which have taken place in the field of Catholic bibliography during the past year, there are several which merit our serious attention. Father Arnold J. Garvy, S. J., of Loyola University, Chicago, has two-thirds to three-quarters completed a bibliographical dictionary of Catholic authors on which he has been diligently laboring for the last fifteen years. Father Garvy's work will be in the nature of a combination of a Who's Who and Allibone, to be followed by as accurate a list of the author's works as is obtainable. With the year 450 A.D. as his starting point, the compiler is including the Anglo-Saxon, the Latin, the Norman and Anglo-French, the Gaelic, the French writers in Canada, briefly, all the Catholic writers in the English-speaking countries, no matter what language they wrote. Although the completed work may not be finished for some years, we may at least anticipate a partial fulfillment in the near future with the publication of the index which will be gotten out separately, as it can be made ready long before the main compilation. Our attention has also been called to Father Walter Romig's work which he will soon publish, namely, a "Guide to Catholic Fiction," which endeavors to include all fiction by Catholic authors published any time before 1931. Father Romig also has in preparation a guide to Catholic essays, poetry, drama, oratory and belles-lettres which he hopes to have ready soon after the appearance of his fiction catalog.

Father Stephen J. Brown, S. J., Honorary Librarian of the Central Library in Dublin, and a bibliographical worker of unusual merit, expressed his interest in our project and offered several constructive suggestions. His recent "Index of Catholic Biographies," and his "Catalog of Novels and Tales by Catholic Writers," which has been revised in an American edition by Father Romig, together with his other works of bibliography and literature, form a vital part of every Catholic library's collection. The students of St. Francis Seminary, Loretto, Pennsylvania, who each year prepare a yearbook, the "Mariale," devoted to some topic of current interest, produced this year a beautiful volume entitled, "Catholic Authors in Modern Literature," which covers with a brief life-sketch, discussion and bibliography, over two hundred and fifty authors of the period 1880-1930.

The Catholic Author Annual, our immediate concern, provides much food for thought, discussion and action. Following the plan which was accepted in New Orleans, June, 1930, and as soon as the interruptions of summer school and well-earned vacations ceased, work was begun on the first step of the procedure, namely, the compilation of an alphabetical list of publishers who issue books in English. With this tedious and time-consuming task accomplished,

the complete list, which was culled from all known available sources, and which numbers in the neighborhood of three thousand entries, was divided into seven parts of the alphabet, giving each committee-member four hundred and some odd publishers for his or her quota. Incidentally, this list is kept up to date by consulting the Cumulative Book Index as each number appears. Letters have already been sent to three hundred and fifty publishers, many of whom have signified their willingness to help. Among the more prominent houses we might mention Charles Scribner's Sons, National Catholic Welfare Conference, Johns Hopkins Press, A. A. Knopf Co., P. J. Kenedy & Sons, National Association of Book Publishers, Loyola University Press, Scott Foresman Co., William Morrow & Co., Marshall Jones Co., Facsimile Text Society, Joseph F. Wagner Co., Longmans, Green Co., Macmillan and Little, Brown.

Thus far there has been no financial source from which to draw funds for carrying out this work. The committee members have generously contributed the monetary assistance necessary to proceed to this point of the project, but from now on, a sufficient reserve fund must be available if any headway is to be hoped for. The early part of 1933 has been marked as the time for the publication of the first volume of the "Catholic Author Annual." However, it is not too late to postpone this until 1934, if it is felt that it should be done to give the Catholic Periodical Index a better possibility of strengthening its financial foundations. With about one hundred dollars the soliciting of the publishers' cooperation could be completed, and we would at least have the material for the first annual, even though its publication might be impossible in 1933. Whatever is the decision of this section, let us not defer the problem beyond this meeting. Whether the first annual be postponed to 1934 or not, the project must be kept in forward motion. If it is allowed to lag for long, it will eventually die one of those numerous natural deaths. To those with whom he has worked during the last twelve months, the chairman expresses sincere thanks for their splendid spirit of cooperation.

The members of this unselfish committee are: William T. O'Rourke, chairman, Rev. Peter J. Etzig, Sister Mary Miriam, Edna M. Becker, Anna L. Phillips, Camille Rigali, M. Lillian Ryan.

Catholic Librarians:

Undoubtedly you fully appreciate the advantages of your individual membership in the C. L. A. Why not make such advantages known to the members of your staff? As you well know, a word of encouragement from you, and your entire staff will gladly subscribe to membership in the Catholic Library Association.

REORGANIZING A HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY WITH ATTRACTIVE SURROUNDINGS

By CELESTINE KING, *Librarian*
Cretin High School, St. Paul, Minn.

In order to raise the standards of St. Anthony High School in Minneapolis, the Sisters of St. Joseph decided to reorganize the library.

The first step necessary was that of finding a location more appropriate than the old one. The janitor was called upon to renovate an old classroom; the blackboards were removed, walls painted, and the floor scraped and varnished. While this was being done, work on the books was begun.

The collection was examined. Many old and inappropriate volumes were discarded, and, owing to the fact that a great many books from the original collection had been lost, a complete new accession record was started. Previous to this, the business entry which consisted of the date and the phrase, "In library prior to reorganization," was put in each book. After examination of the standard high school lists, many new volumes were purchased and added. Needless to say the proper business entries were put in these.

With a collection of sixteen hundred volumes now on hand, the next step was the ordering of Library of Congress cards. These were ordered by number from the United States Catalog of Books in Print in 1928 and its cumulations.

While waiting the return of the cards, all books received the ownership mark. Supply catalogs were then examined for appropriate furniture, that from Library Bureau finally being selected.

After two months' time, the classification was finally finished and each book bore its call number in neat letters and figures of white paint. Some very able and much appreciated assistance was received from a graduate of the College of St. Catherine Library School, Miss Rosemary Bowers.

Subscriptions for all of the essential periodicals recommended for a high school library were ordered. The current numbers are neatly spread on the slanting shelves provided for in one of the fourteen new book-cases.

In addition to this magazine rack and the shelving, the furniture consists of six tables, thirty-six chairs, a four-drawer filing case, a dictionary stand, a twelve-drawer card catalog, a small display case, and a librarian's desk and chair.

In one corner of the room is a small built-in cupboard for supplies. It is here that there is a work table with one tier of shelving for books waiting to be white-inked, shellacked, and pocketed.

In the room are two large bulletin-boards. These, with a large fern, a fish bowl, and bright cretonne valances at the windows, help to make it an attractive as well as a practically equipped library.

NEXT ISSUE: An article, written especially for the *WORLD* by Rev. Leonard Feeney, S.J., will appear in the November 15th number. Father Feeney's book of poems, *In Towns and Little Towns*, has brought him the distinction of being one of the outstanding priest-poets of the day. Perhaps the only consoling aftermath of the 1928 presidential campaign was this brilliant writer's stirring pamphlet, *The Brown Derby*, of which tens of thousands of copies were eagerly read in all sections of the country.

LIBRARY SCIENCE ADDED TO CURRICULUM OF CATHOLIC COLLEGE IN SOUTHWEST

By MOTHER M. ANGELIQUE, *Dean*
Our Lady of the Lake College, San Antonio, Texas

At the beginning of the present scholastic year Our Lady of the Lake College, in an effort to meet the demands of the day, opened a Library Science Department. A one-year course of thirty semester hours' credit is being offered and leads to the degree of Bachelor of Science in Library Science. The program includes courses in book selection, trade and subject bibliography, reference, lending routine, administration, school library management, as well as the more technical subjects, cataloging and classification. The department is being conducted in conformity with the regulations of the Board for Librarianship of the American Library Association, from which it is seeking approval at as early a date as is possible.

Among the nineteen students who are receiving instruction in the new department, there are two holding the degree of Master of Arts from the University of Texas, and twelve holding the degree of Bachelor of Arts, while the others have completed the three years of regular college work required for admission. Mrs. Jessie W. Luther, of the University of Wisconsin School of Library Science, is the director of the course, and in her work she is assisted by Mrs. Frances Sawyer Henke of the same library training center, and by Sister Francis Claire, who has library training from Columbia University. Before coming to Our Lady of the Lake College, Mrs. Luther was on the faculty of the Library School of the Los Angeles Public Library. She is a person of prominence in the Library world and has held positions as lecturer and instructor in the university from which she was graduated; at Kellogg Library, State Teachers College, Emporia, Kansas; at Ripon College, Ripon, Wisconsin, and at the Carnegie Library School, Atlanta, Georgia.

Our Lady of the Lake College is second in line of the Catholic colleges to begin the project of establishing a library training center. It aims to fill a real need in supplying training to its students, to the librarians in school and country libraries, and especially to the members of the teaching religious orders in the Southwest who are endeavoring to meet the requirements for librarians in their schools.

POSITIONS WANTED

Graduate of St. Catherine's Library School desires position in Catholic library; Reading knowledge of French and German. Capable of working with the L. C. or Dewey Classification.—R. F. M.

* * *

Graduate of St. Catherine's Library School with honors. Reading knowledge of French. Can work with the L. C. and Dewey Classification with equal facility.—B. R.

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SOLVING A LIBRARY PROBLEM

During the last two years, the energies of our libraries have been devoted to the completion of our sets of Catholic periodicals. Through the co-operation and kindness of the publishers and the Catholic librarians with whom we were exchanging various items, we gradually filled one after another of the gaps in our sets. One gap, however, would not be filled, viz., the index to volume 2 of the *Commonweal*. Continued correspondence with the publishers, with second-hand dealers, and with all the librarians with whom we had any relations, brought only one lead. The 26 issues of volume 2 and a typewritten copy of the index were offered us at \$10. As we lacked only the index, we felt the offer was not a bargain. At the same time another librarian who lacked this same piece, offered to type it in his spare time—but warned that the better part of a year would be required.

This forced us to investigate other means of procuring the missing item. Photostatting had occurred to me previously, but I had hesitated because of the supposed expense, and because I disliked the gray type which I had seen. In order to complete the set, however, I procured a copy of the index from the Boston College Library and sent it to be photostatted. Because of my acquaintance with an instructor in Massachusetts Institute of Technology I sent the work there. Upon the recommendation of the expert, I had positive plates made up, i.e., black print on a white background. The finished product is indistinguishable from the original printing and cost was only \$2.—A. J. R.

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The question has been asked, "How many books, written by members of the C. L. A., have been published this year?" This information would prove mighty interesting. This query provoked another in the mind of the editor, "How can we get Catholic authors to become actively interested in the C. L. A.?"

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If any of our readers know of Catholic library workers, or persons interested in Catholic library progress to whom the C. L. A. or the C. L. W. are strangers, let them submit such names to us and we shall see to it that our organization and our monthly will be brought to their attention.

INTRODUCING THE FRESHMAN CLASS TO THE TREASURES OF THE LIBRARY

By SISTER MARY PATRICIA, S.N.D.

Trinity College, Washington, D. C.

Trinity College resumed work this year with a Freshman Week. Ninety-five newcomers were thus to be initiated into the mysteries and duties of college life while they alone could claim all attention.

The library was marked on the schedule for two periods of an hour each. As teachers would later require all Freshmen to make a chart of the library in order readily to locate indispensable books, the librarian planned for these two initial periods something different. On the table in each of ten alcoves, she arranged some of her treasures. Here were manuscripts once sent to publishers—mostly in pre-type-writing days—of some of the very essays and poems the students would have to read in print for class.

Next were parchment-bound volumes of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, and among them, six royal octavo volumes of Pope's Translation of the *Illiad*, published twenty-four years before Pope died, and with a list of subscribers which is a literary roll-call of eighteenth century England. On a third table were various sets of volumes treating of Historic Costumes, with fine colored plates; on a fourth, magnificently bound and illustrated sets of Duruy's *History of Rome* and *History of Greece*; on a fifth, great illustrated volumes of the *History of France*, of *European Cathedrals*, and of the *Vatican*; and so of the remaining tables.

The librarian went from group to group of students, pointing out especially good points, explaining kinds of binding, leather used, tooling, etc., processes of illustrating, "Graingerizing," etc. Then, by way of finale, the literary value of the pictures in the five rooms was discussed before admiring followers.

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AMONG RECENT BOOKS

Several books, detailing the progress and accomplishments of the Sisters of Mercy, have come from the press within the past few months. There are many interesting pages in *The Sisters of Mercy: Historical Sketches*, by Sister Mary Josephine Gately; *The Sisters of Mercy in Maryland*, by Sister Mary Loretto Costello, M.A.; *The Sisters of Mercy in Mississippi*, by Mother M. Bernard. These, together with *Sister Louise* (American Foundress of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur), by Sister Helen Louise, comprise a substantial contribution to Catholic Americana.

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It has been many moons since a novel has enjoyed (and deserved) the universal acclaim accorded Willa Cather's *Shadows on the Rock*. The Catholic Book Club again set the pace in giving its members a novel which has turned out to be one of the most popular books of fiction of the day.

UNIQUE ADVENTURE AT CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY

By SISTER M. AGATHA, O. S. U.
Ursuline Academy, Wilmington, Del.

Along with other forms of expansion at the Summer Session of the Catholic University of America was an experiment in library service which settled permanently the question: Do children read during vacation? They do.

Questioning the usefulness of a course in children's literature without the books and the children, a plan to install a branch library at the University for the Summer School was presented to Dr. George Bowerman, Director of the Public Library, Washington, D. C. With characteristic courtesy and enthusiasm, this alert librarian and educational leader sensed an opportunity for rendering still greater service to the people of Washington. His vigorous mind set itself to immediate action. Through Miss Louise Latimer, head of the children's and schools' divisions of the Public Library, the unique project was launched. Nothing in the form of time, effort and material was spared. As if by magic, three large vacant rooms at the Catholic University library were transformed into a model children's library. Under the efficient direction of Miss Latimer, and aided by her expert staff, Miss Bubbs, Miss Flanagan and Miss Coleman, the rooms were furnished with all the necessary appointments. Twelve hundred books, broadsides, bulletin boards unfolded the scheme to give students of the library course the practical routine of a professionally administered children's library. Registration, charging and reference desks, with all the essential supplies, were provided. Attractive posters lined the walls and vases of flowers and ivy added fragrance to the atmosphere of this charming setting.

Representatives of six Religious Orders of men and women, together with lay women and college students, signed up for the course. Instead of holding the initial meeting in the regular lecture room, all were invited to the newly installed children's library where the first talk was ably given by Miss Gladys Flanagan, who drew a survey of English, French, Dutch and American illustrators, presenting at the same time a score or more of beautifully illustrated children's classics. At the end of this first lecture, question marks had resolved themselves into exclamations until finely rounded periods emphatically declared in favor of this professional innovation. Or is it not more correct to say this *ideal* form of *co-operation* between the *public* library and the university? I say *ideal* because it is only by joint professional association with librarians that we library students can acquire the technique of the administration and routine problems so indispensable to efficient service.

Having thus prepared the laboratory for the actual work of the course, the next logical step was to meet the children who were to become the borrowers—to

make our human, personality contacts. Signs leading from the street to the entrance announced that the Public Library branch would be open from 9.00 to 11.00 on week days from June 27 to August 3. Previous to the closing of school, the various school officials were invited to co-operate by announcing the service to the children of Brookland. That this opportunity was fully appreciated was evident from the large number of registration cards filed, and from the statistics of circulation. Within the short period of six weeks (a two-hour daily service), over one thousand books were handled by children and students taking the course, which means that one thousand books, which would otherwise have stood on the shelves, were circulated. It might be well to state here that Brookland, where the Catholic University is located, has at present no branch station.

Aside from the practical aspect of the project, what seems to be of still greater importance for the professional cause is the fine spirit of helpfulness manifested by the public library at our National Capital. If our large public libraries are to be regarded as extensions of our universities and colleges, the more we have of this reciprocal relationship the better for education in this country. We believe that the dynamic mind of Dr. Bowerman is seen here at full play, and that he can go on record as having established a precedent in the educational work of our most democratic of institutions, the public library.

Dr. Bowerman and Miss Latimer have demonstrated a most practical form of public-spirited leadership.

Faculty members and students of the library course at the Catholic University take this means of publicly acknowledging their indebtedness to Dr. Bowerman and Miss Latimer for the major part played by them, and which contributed to the phenomenal success of this unique adventure in library service.

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WANTS

Brother Francis H. Ruhlman, S.M., Librarian of Dayton University, Dayton, Ohio, is desirous of obtaining the following magazines for the completion of his files. Librarians having duplicate copies of these wants are requested to communicate with Brother Ruhlman.

America. Vol. 21, Nos. 22, 24, 26; vol. 22, nos. 4, 10, 21, 23, 25; vol. 27, nos. 13, 14; vol. 30, nos. 17 to 19; vol. 28, no. 8; vol. 33, no. 16.

Dublin Review. All numbers for 1927 to 1930 inclusive.

Studies. 1918—Sept., Dec.; 1921—March, June; 1924—March, June; 1925—March; 1926—Sept., Dec. Also all numbers from 1927 to 1930, inclusive.

Ecclesiastical Review. 1903—March; 1928—Jan., Apr., June, Aug., Oct.

NEWS FROM THE FIELD

Readers knowing of items of personal interest are asked to submit them to the editor by the first of each month. It is the editor's hope to develop this column into a clearing house of chatty news about members of the C. L. A. Every member a contributing editor!

Miss Celestine King, graduate of St. Catherine's Library School, has been appointed librarian of Cretin High School, St. Paul, Minn.

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The new Central Verein library building in Chicago was recently completed. This modest one-story structure, equipped to accommodate 40,000 volumes, was dedicated to the men who founded and developed the Catholic Central Verein of America.

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Mr. Irving T. McDonald, librarian of Holy Cross College, Worcester, Mass., and member of the Executive Committee of the C. L. A., is regularly delighting the readers of *The Sign* with interesting articles written in his own inimitable vein.

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A commendable review of *Norme per il Catalogo Degli Stampati* (the Vatican code of cataloging rules), appeared in the *Library Journal* of September 15th. The reviewer was Rev. Colman Farrell, O.S.B., librarian of St. Benedict's College, Atchison, Kansas, who has already devoted considerable time to the adaptation of the Dewey Classification of Religion to meet the demands of a Catholic library.

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We take this occasion of congratulating Father Farrell on his appointment as a member of the Committee on Permanent Paper for Government Documents, an activity of the American Library Association. It is said that Father Farrell is the first Catholic priest to hold office in the A. L. A.

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Great American Foundresses, by Rev. Joseph B. Code, Librarian, St. Ambrose College, Davenport, Iowa, is one of the one hundred books worth reading selected by the Cardinal Hayes Literature Committee.

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The editor of *The Sign* is to be roundly congratulated on his magnificent monthly which never fails to interest its host of readers. A Catholic periodical which has garnered such writers as Belloc, Chesterton, Enid Dinnis, etc., into its staff of regular contributors, has attained an enviable position in Catholic contemporary literature. May every success crown such efforts.

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A list of more than 3000 titles, comprising the work of Catholic University professors and students for the past ten years, has just been issued in a volume entitled, *A Decade of Research at the Catholic University of America—1920 to 1930*.

News from Hirst Library, Georgetown University:

Mr. William H. Quealy of Havana, Cuba, a member of the Junior Class, College of Arts and Sciences, has been appointed Assistant Librarian, in charge of the Library during afternoons and evenings. Mr. James McTigue of Holyoke, Mass., is Assistant Librarian, in charge daily from 9 A. M. till 3 P. M. This is Mr. McTigue's fourth year with the Hirst Library. He is a member of the Senior Class at the Law School, and besides his duties in the Hirst is also connected with the Georgetown Law Library.

A new system of keeping track of books while in circulation has been introduced this year. The title and author of the book drawn, as well as the borrower's card number, are entered on a specially ruled loose-leaf ledger sheet, which is dated with the day on which the book is due. As many sheets are used as are necessary to record all books as they are drawn. Thus we have a permanent record of the circulation for any given day which is kept on file throughout the year, and which shows not only the number of books drawn, but also what books have the largest circulation. This system also facilitates checking up on overdue books. In addition we also file alphabetically cards showing the titles of books withdrawn and the borrower's card number, so that it is a simple matter to find out just where any book is which is not to be found on the shelves.

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THE CATHOLIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Membership consists of Catholic librarians, library assistants and all who are interested in Catholic library progress.

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